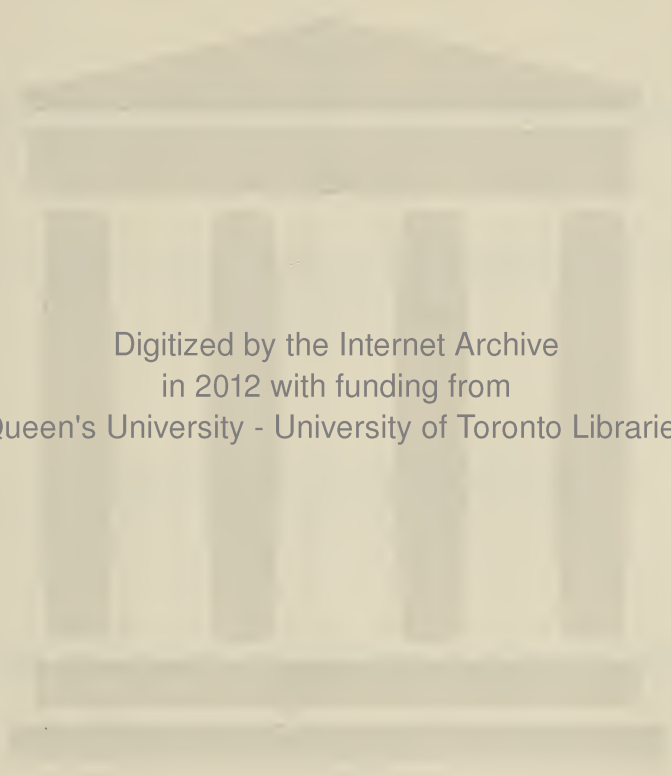




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A LECTURE,

Delivered Before an Association of

AGRICULTURISTS AND MECHANICS,

AT THE VILLAGE OF GANANOQUE, ON THE
29TH MAY, 1851.

BY A KINGSTONIAN.

AND PUBLISHED BY REQUEST OF THE AUDIENCE.

KINGSTON, C. W.

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BY A KINGSTONIAN.

MR. CHAIRMAN,—

I come forward this evening to Address this Assembly, with a confident hope, that however feeble may be my humble endeavours, however weak my arguments, or deficient my delivery, I may at least say something, which although it may fail to enlighten or edify this audience on the principles of that science, of which I am about to speak.—Yet, that it may tend to excite the enquiry, “whether these things are so.”

I come forward here, not as an orater, but as an operative mechanic, known to you all, a plain blunt man, that will speak right, on such things as I do see, and feel, and know, and of such things as all should know.—That is, Political Science—or Political Economy.

My remarks this evening will be more particularly upon such points as immediately effect this Province, its welfare and prosperity—upon that policy which effects the interest of this great community, collectively and individually.

Our leading men and legislators study far more to secure to themselves and friends, office and its emoluments, than the prosperity of our country,—than a knowledge of Political Science—a knowledge of that system of policy which shall ever tend to increase wealth and prosperity.

The question then arises, Firstly,—What is the true policy for Canada?—And in considering those leading principles which tend to general prosperity we must be in a great measure guided by observation and experience, rather than by pre-existing theories.

As all large amounts are composed of small particles, so also does a nation's wealth and prosperity consist in the prosperity of labor of humble individuals. When I speak of labor, or laborers. I wish to be understood as referring to such occupations, and

such persons, and all such persons as follow some employment, whereby mental or corporeal exertions are necessary to secure the comforts and varied wants of life—whether it be in the counting-house, or in the work-shop, whether it be on the farm, or in the office, or even in the pulpit, or at the bar,—I class all as laborers.

This is the class of which the great portion of Canada's population is composed, and upon the encouragement and protection of whose labor depends entirely the prosperity of this portion of British North America. The *Cry of Cheap Labor* may do for the pauper population of Europe, but will never do for this Western Continent. A remunerative price for labor, encouragement of mechanical genius, talent, and enterprize, would change the whole features of Canada; universal prosperity would be the natural consequence—and the cry for annexation would be heard no more forever. Our neighboring republic has arisen from poverty to affluence—from an humble station to her present eminence—wholly by her protective principle; and cannot we, by adopting the same policy have the same successful result.—We certainly can; and with our natural advantages, connected as we are, with a powerful empire, we may far exceed our neighbors in wealth and prosperity, and consequently in contentment and happiness.

Previous to the embargo of 1809, the duties charged on European or Foreign Goods, imported into the United States were for the purpose of Revenue only. But it appears that during the administration of Mr. Jefferson he had recommended that a portion of the agriculturists to the amount of some 40 or 50 thousand should turn their attention to manufacturing—or, that upon an average of one person at least from every family should learn some branch of Mechanical business.

But the embargo which was afterwards laid, followed as it was by the war with Great Britain, effected the proposed change more than could have been anticipated from any policy; by casting them upon their own resources, developing the same, and awakening their own enterprize.

Factories of various descriptions had in the mean time grown up among them, as if by magic, whose productions were such as to meet the wants of the country—although in all respects inferior to the productions of manufacturing Europe.

This was the first step toward that eminence to which she has now arrived. In the United States the old oft repeated theory of buying in the cheapest market, has fully exploded, and instead of which, has been substituted that great and leading prin-

ciple of purchasing their own manufactures in their own market—cheap or dear.

In our neighboring republic, when the embargo was laid there arose much complaint from the advanced price of all foreign goods—but this subsided when all could perceive the improving state of their manufacturies, and demand for domestic labor, which circumstances had substituted for foreign labor—and never has a time operated to her advantage so much, and been of so much importance in her improvements and prosperity as was the season of non-intercourse with Great Britain

When the embargo was laid, cotton factories “were few and far between”—and these only for spinning; the yarn was then sent to every house throughout the whole country, to be woven wherever there was a loom, and where there was none, one was immediately built, and every man, woman and child who was able had employment, and never again was heard complaints of high prices.

The prices paid to hand-loom-workers varied from 10 to 20 cents a yard, which decreased as power-looms were established, and the price of common factory cotton, which was then at half-a-dollar a yard, has by the improvement of their machinery and experience in the various operations of Mechanical power. Supported, encouraged, and perfected by a protective policy,—now come to that state of perfection, that the same article is this day sold at the low price of five cents a yard.

The prosperity of that country has increased just in proportion to the carrying out of the protective principle. Her agriculturists have been made rich—not by a foreign market; no, but by a home market, created and supported by protection of domestic labor—by protection of her manufacturing interests. That prosperity has never been since suspended, but by relaxing the protective principle, and excessive importations, consequent upon such policy.

Great Britain has arrived at her present station through the encouragement of mechanical genius, ingenuity, and talent—by the encouragement of Manufactures, the same have now become her most important interest. The abolition of the Corn Laws, was a master stroke of policy; by making cheap food—it so operated upon the manufacturing interest of England, that she can now compete with all the world. This policy of England is from its working, the most perfect protection to her manufacturing interest. And could she dupe foreign nations to adopt the principles of free trade in manufactures, or even

her colonies, then would she be benefited—and she alone, and other nations, particularly the United States would thereby be reduced to desolation and bankruptcy. Whilst oceans of wealth would roll into Great Britain by her free trade policy.

Canada with abundance of water power, is fitted for a Manufacturing population—nothing but a market created by manufacturers can ever render effectual and important the agricultural interest. Then why not Manufacture? Another answer is immediately given—that we have no capital. Does not the millions of money which have been expended in Canada for the last 40 years, and is still being expended by the Imperial Government for naval and military purposes, canals and fortifications.—I say, does not this—has it not created a capital? I am sorry to say, the policy of the Government has prevented it—a mistaken policy—the want of a protective principle has prevented improvement, has forced the *bone and sinew of the country* to seek some other home—but the United States have grown rich—“gone ahead”—built Railroads, Canals, Factories—capital has accumulated and been re-produced in a thousand forms—but this was all *Canada Capital*—converted to their use, through an opposite policy.

The millions of Imperial Gold, by which we might have become a rich and flourishing country—have gone no more to return—by a non-protective or free trade system—whereby our revenue is raised from duties on “non-productions”—(*tea, sugar, coffee, &c.*,) thereby enforcing an arbitrary tax upon domestic labor.

The following remark in the American Merchant's Magazine for January 1850, shews plainly the opinion of American politicians on the subject of a tariff. “It is now universally acknowledged by all shades of politicians that all articles of necessity, non-productions of the Union, should be admitted free or at a nominal duty, and no interest would be injured thereby,” the same principle is equally applicable to Canada; where unfortunately an opposite policy is now being carried out.

The common remark in reference to Canada, is, “*she lacks enterprise,*” and from whomsoever this remark may emanate, I shall hurl it back in their teeth, and declare it is false, it is a libel upon the community. But ingenuity and talent are forced into this embarrassed condition by an unsound policy, by

Mr. Hincks' free trade tariff of which I have just been speaking. In making remarks upon the policy of non-encouragement of domestic manufactures. I beg I may not be understood as particularly or wholly referring to the measures of the present ministry, as a similar policy has been pursued for many years. The prohibition duty which was laid on machinery, was expressly to discourage manufactures in Canada, under the excuse of supporting the manufactures of Great Britain, but this paltry excuse vanished in smoke, upon the removal of the differential duties, which was in itself a preference to American manufactures. Now, when this restriction was laid on manufacturing machinery; if the production of such machinery had been protected in a manner, parallel—then would the result have been a substantial improvement in every branch of science and manufactures.

Under this system, to no branch of manufactures has a benefit been perceived, except alone the manufacture of steam engines. And in reference to mechanical genius and improvement; I would ask,—will not our own steamers stand a fair comparison with those of any other part of this continent in beauty, strength, speed, convenience and safety? I answer in the affirmative, and so, doubtless, would every thing else, under a true policy. Or even exceed the most sanguine expectations. Some ten years ago farms and all real estate, separate from improvements were more valuable than at this present day; all real estate has depreciated, our water power scarcely improved, or to a very small extent; our manufactories are at a stand, or hardly advancing; our best artisans, and the great portion of our laboring population, (*the bone and sinew of the country*,) are leaving, or have already left the country. It is a mistaken policy of foreign Mechanics to become agriculturists.—No! such as are not forced to remain from circumstances of property or other ties, prefer leaving for that country, where domestic labor is protected; such as remain from circumstances must be expected to use their exertions to improve their situation—this will account for remarks so conspicuously held forth by the Government organs and their satellites, under the *sarcastic head* of "*more ruin and decay*," but to assert that Canada is in a prosperous condition, is an insult to common sense.

The value of farms in the vicinity of Kingston range from 3 to 5 pounds an acre separate from improvements; this is a lower rate than 10 years ago, during the same time, farms from Watertown to Rome have advanced more than an hundred per

cent—perhaps at nigh double that rate; they now range in value about 40 dollars per acre. This has all been effected by the protection of their manufactures; and in that said section, more than 500 farmers, who 10 years ago were not worth as many dollars, can now purchase from 10 to 50 Canadian Cows and pay for them without borrowing a dollar; this is not from *Mr. Hincks' free trade policy*. When we shall adopt the same policy we may expect the same result.

I could refer you to the opinions of many able statesmen in support of a protective policy, but will only make an extract from the words of one man,—an individual known to us all, now a Judge of the Queen's Bench—the Hon. Robert B. Sullivan, who has always been a strenuous and uncompromising advocate of the protective principle, which readily accounts for the jealousy of his colleagues in the Executive Council.

In a Lecture before the Mechanics' Institute, at the City of Hamilton in 1847, in reference to the connection between Agriculture and Mechanics, Mr. Sullivan says,—“that when I was first call'd to the Bar, not thinking that I had sufficient talents or confidence to cope with the difficulties of a town practice, I went to reside in one of the most retired and quiet neighborhoods in the Province—in the vicinity of Long Point, and just at the same time Van Nornam & Co. established a small foundry near Vittoria, where Bog Ore was abundant, there was then a great scarcity of money. But the foundry was established, and Van Nornam & Co. bought every article of the production of the country, in exchange for hollow ware and stoves, or when these were not immediately wanted, a credit on the foundry, payable in that cast iron currency.—The farmers then through this means, could pay all their debts in this currency, they then had not only stoves and hollow ware and other articles of pecuniary importance cheap and abundant, but they had a credit at the iron bank, which pass'd current, and answered all their purposes.”

“One of my first fees I then received, was an order on the furnace, with which I built a chimney, and I learnt a lesson worth more than ten such fees, namely, the vast importance of that single manufacturing establishment, to the whole community. I asked myself, what would be the difference, if Van Nornam & Co. had been peddlars of iron pots, instead of manufacturers. Or had the hollow ware been made on the other side of Lake Erie?” I shall not trouble you with Mr. Sulli-

van's answer to this Querie, but leave you to come to your own general conclusions.

After duly considering the balance of trade consequent upon importations, Mr. Sullivan proceeds,—“ But it is not of a mere balance of trade that I am complaining, mercantile affairs and balances may be going on well or ill, without effecting my argument in the least. What I find fault with is a state of things, which leaves this country without money or capital of its own ; this is produced by not manufacturing at home. Our manufacturing towns are in Great Britain and in the United States—whither the profits of our industry flow, without our having the least benefit of capital in the country—creating, reproducing as it should do under a better system. To make my meaning plain and familiar, let us speak of things as we see them. Many merchants to our own knowledge, have many thousands of pounds employed in the import trade of this city—let us take any one and suppose him to bring in and sell fifty thousand pounds worth of manufactured goods, made in Great Britain or in the United States. What are the benefits conferred by his business on the country?—he has paid certain duties toward the support of the Government, but this is only an indirect mode in which the consumers of the goods have paid taxes which they are no better able to pay, because the goods have been imported, and therefore the payment goes for nothing—he has paid freight and forwarding charges through the Province ; so far he has helped, by enabling the forwarders and ship-owners on the lakes to realize profits, and he has contributed to the support of public works—so far he has contributed to the reproductive wealth of the country.—He has built warehouses—so far again he has done good.—He has in his employ half-a-dozen clerks—some of whom probably save money from their wages—these live at boarding houses, and enable the keepers to realize profits—again good is done.—Perhaps, however he has imported his goods from the United States, when his contributions to the forwarders, ship-owners and public works must be deducted.—This extensive business, has added by six or seven consumers to the market of the farmers in the neighborhood. He makes a fortune himself, which is remitted to London or Liverpool, or Glasgow, or New York, and he speaks of himself as a man interested in Canada, as he may well do ;—though our present question is not as to his interest in Canada, but as to the interest of Canada in him.

It is manifest that with few and small exceptions, I have

mentioned the whole profits of his trade. I am not now speaking of the cost of the goods, which must have had their cost, let them be produced where they may, but the whole profits of his trade have gone, not to be again seen here in the way of re-production. What has he exported in return for the goods imported and disposed of?—Probably one-half the amount in wheat, flour and pork—the farmer's only exportable articles—for the rest, the merchant has transmitted the cash.

Contrast this with the effect produced in the town and country by the manufacturer of fifty thousand pounds worth of boots and shoes, leather, castings, iron work, machinery, such as we make, in building, stone, brick, and carpenter's work, ship building, or such other trades as we have; how many are benefited by the production? How many are growing daily richer by the transaction to which it gives rise? How many families are fed, clothed, and educated? How many are added to the population of the town? How much is added to the re-productive wealth of the country? The importing merchants makes a small per centage; it is gone to swell some overgrown capital far away.

The artizan makes money in greater proportions, but he extends his business, he builds a house, he buys town lots, all he accumulates is for the place he lives in; his gains and those of the persons in his employment, reproduce money at every turn. If *his trade were but extensive*, he would become the possessor of large capital; that capital would be again employed and invested with the same activity with which its accumulation commenced thus would a town population and manufacturing capital be created; and we should have the class we want, ready to forward the enterprize of the Province, and to enable us to keep on a parallel with our neighbors.

Now, what would this town population do for the farmer—for the country? Why, it would furnish him with a market for his cattle, his sheep, his hogs, his hay, oats, poultry, butter, cheese, eggs, potatoes, vegetables, milk, and all articles not exportable: which without a town population, would be comparatively trifling.

A farm in the neighborhood of a large town, is worth twenty times as much as at a distance from it; though both may be equally convenient for exportation, and for the simple reason, that every thing which the farmer can raise has an immediate moneyed value. How little of this invaluable home market then, is produced by the importing merchant and his clerks? How much is, or could be produced by the presence of manufacturin capital in

full activity? A very slight consideration of these questions will show how far the farmer is interested in mechanical arts being followed in his neighborhood, and how inevitably his profits must be reduced, and his business languish, in a country, where the importation of manufactured goods is larger than the amount of domestic manufactures."

Previous to the late war between the United States and Great Britain, and some time after the peace of 115, there was a great business done in the stove trade; the manufacture of which was then carried on successfully in Lower Canada—with these stoves the parts of the United States, bordering on the lines were wholly supplied, which trade was considered a profitable one—this continued to be carried on until the United States forced their protective policy—which immediately turned the scale, and enabled the Americans to supply us instead of our supplying them—however after some years, we in some measure recovered the iron trade, through the superior quality of iron and an incidental protection of 12½ per cent.

Some 30 years ago, I knew a chair-maker in Kingston who supplied the whole line of the State of New York from Ogdensburg to Oswego with chairs made in Kingston—this was then his most profitable trade, and would very likely have continued to do so until the present day, had not the United States enforced their protective laws, and thereby put a stop to the trade, and forced their own citizens to manufacture, and in a very short time they were able to compete and even supply the market of Canada, and as they sent all their surplus stock array, or manufactured expressly to sell cheap by a forced sale, and free from all responsibility—it is not strange that they flooded the Kingston market. Where the Kingston chair-maker had to meet them on the market by forced sales, manufactured expressly for the purpose.—Since which time the Kingston chair-maker has sold in the market at public or forced sale, manufactured expressly to meet the competition from the United States, to the amount of some 20,000 chairs and that probably without a dollar profit—but by which opposition he has sustained his trade as in town established. Now, the question is, who has profited by this policy? Not the purchasers for they have paid more than they were worth. Not the manufacturer, for he has made no profit, but he has sustained his trade, at his own shop. but to make up the deficiency, he has even been obliged to charge the public some 10 or 15 per cent more than he would have required under a protective system, so that the public have gained nothing by the low tariff—but have lost much, Nor have manufactures improved, or machinery been perfected, as

would have been the case under a better system, but then through the production of these articles in the country---has yet much good been done—Hundreds of poor children have been fed, and clothed and educated through the employment and wages paid in the production of these articles—and every shilling so saved to the country has its influence, either directly or indirectly upon the welfare of the whole—and the capital of the country has been to such an extent increased by the operation.

To illustrate the principles of Protection, and its effects on Local circulation, and also its bearing on the interests of the country, we will, for example, consider a single dollar in the hands of a poor Laborer in a manufacturing town, and trace it through a single day's journey,—in the morning he buys in the market, from a Farmer, potatoes and a few other necessaries for his family dinner, for which he pays the dollar; the farmer steps into a Shoemaker's shop, and buys a pair of shoes for his wife, for which he also pays the dollar; the Shoemaker has just received an order for a pair of boots to be ready for to-morrow, but has no sole leather to make them with—sends directly to the Tannery for it, and pays the dollar; the Tanner hands it directly over to a countryman in payment for a load of bark; the countryman buys with it pork and bread to take to the bush; the Grocer immediately goes to the market and buys a fatted pig, which he cuts up, salts, and packs for sale; the Farmer, from whom he bought the pig, and to whom he paid the dollar, gets work done at the Blacksmiths; the Blacksmith hands it over to his journeyman, who gives it to his wife; with which she also goes to the market and pays the dollar to the Butcher for meat; who pays it out to the same Farmer who sold the potatoes in the morning to the Laborer; and in return the Butcher gets a fat sheep or a lamb for his dollar; and the same dollar, after passing through the hands of some ten persons, is at night paid back to the Laborer in the shape of wages, who first purchased the potatoes in the morning from the Farmer in the market. This dollar has passed through the hands of some ten or a dozen persons, perhaps—it has served the purposes of all, met all their necessities, and is yet the capital of the country. Every person through whose hands the dollar has passed has made a six-pence by it, either directly or indirectly; and as far as it is considered the capital of the country, it has become two dollars instead of one. This is the true history of every dollar under a Protective Policy. Capital is produced and reproduced in a thousand forms, and at every town; and must continue to do so

in a compound proportion, indefinitely. We will again look at the contrast,—suppose the farmer who bought the shoes had purchased from an importer, and of foreign manufacture, how much capital would it have added to the capital of the country? How much advantage would it be, or would it be a loss of capital to the country to the amount of the dollar?

I beg leave to refer to the opinion of one more able statesman on this subject. The great champion selected by Mr. Merritt to support the Reciprocity Bill in the American Senate, in 1849, Mr. Dix, who, when an amendment to the said Bill was proposed, which was to add to the same the manufactures of wool, cotton, and leather, indignantly opposed it, stating that if Canada knew her own interests, she would raise her revenue from imported manufactures, thereby protecting her own. Not that she would raise her revenue from *tea, sugar, and coffee*: but *from manufactures*.

Whilst considering the subject of Protection, I cannot refrain from a direct reference to the City of Kingston Gas Company.

When this Company was first organized, it was done upon that delusive principle of *Free Traders*—of obtaining cheap labor—upon which principle they obtained all their iron works from Scotland, thereby, as they supposed, saving to the Stockholders some 15 per cent. *Now for the sequel*. After their works were all completed, and had been about a year in operation, eleven of their large gas retorts, from imperfect manufacture, failed, and were condemned, and no one responsible for the loss thereby sustained—(their average about 2,500 cwt. each)—and the Company have been compelled to break down a large amount of masonry, and have been forced at last to employ domestic labor to substitute new retorts for the condemned imported ones, which were imperfect,—Mr. Honeyman at his foundry has already at a large expence for patterns prepared and fitted, substitutes for the imperfect castings—and when we take into consideration the expences incurred by the deficiency of the imported articles—the expense in making the patterns, which cost as much as they would have cost at the first; we find that the company lose near 15 per cent., by importing instead of employing domestic labor in manufacturing the gas machinery at first.—Next, had the policy of Government forced upon the company the necessity of employing domestic labor, in preference to foreign; then would every laborer in Kingston been able and willing to have lighted his house with gas, instead of the dim light of

a tallow candle. Such a policy would have so increased the demand that the gas would have cheapened and the profits increased, yes, and more than the 15 per cent, that the short sighted company had erroneously considered they had saved by the employment of foreign labor.—Aye, and who under such a policy would not be able to use the gas light? They are now unable, if willing, to patronize the Gas Company—the community of Kingston are also unable and unwilling to pay a tax whereby the Corporation can light the streets; leaving the citizens of the good old loyal town of Kingston, the stockholders of the Gas Company and sojourning strangers to be groping in darkness through the streets. On the other hand, had a different policy forced upon the Gas Company a preference of domestic labor, such would have been the effect thereby produced, as would have enabled the poorest laborer, to have lighted his house or hut with Gas; that would have enabled the Corporation to have lighted the streets by a tax willingly borne by the city. So that our benighted Gas Company, the citizens of Kingston and sojourning strangers, might all walk the streets of a dark night, as in the brightness of a noonday sun—but such is not now the case, the Gas stock is depreciated, is unproductive, owing to the limited number of customers who can afford to use it. I also learn that the works of the Toronto and Hamilton Gas Companies are also imperfect, and that orders have been received by Mr. Honeyman of the Kingston Foundry, to make the heavy castings necessary for the perfection of their several works—at which foundry he is prepared to make any piece of work under 20 tons weight.

The declared policy of our present Ministry is to force Manufacturers to Agricultural pursuits. Considering Canada merely and entirely as an Agricultural country: whilst all experience plainly shews that Agriculture and Manufactures, to a certain extent, can never be made so profitable as when in close proximity to each other: the more closely the Producer and Consumer are brought together, the more certain are the advantages to each. To support the principle of non-protection, one Government resort to an arbitrary and unjust taxation for revenue purposes, (I refer to the Custom duties on articles of non-production, on articles the first necessities of life—tea, sugar, coffee, &c.) The taxes in the shape of sugar duties in the year 1849, yielded the amount of £77,617. The amount for 1850 I have not yet seen, but have reason to believe that it will exceed £100,000.

Gananoque by location—her immense water power—her abundance of raw material: all combining to make her a manufacturing town. What would be the effect on the agricultural interest

of your vicinity, if a single Cotton Factory were here established? I leave this question to be answered by your own farmers. The same success and the same results would be equally felt by every portion of Canada where there is water to turn a wheel, or a farmer in the vicinity to raise a pound of food. Would such a policy take a single individual from agricultural pursuits.—No! it would give a new stimulus to the agricultural interest; it would add hundreds to the numbers already in the cultivation of the soil, and with cheering prospects. What are all the Bills passed at the last Session of Parliament, compared to the commercial policy pursued. All measures are comparatively trifling in their effects upon the prosperity of the country, when compared with that policy which shall encourage and protect honest and domestic labor.

There is one more feature in the policy of our Ministry, to which I beg leave to call your attention.—“The policy of bringing convict labor in direct competition with honest industry. A policy which has been by the law of the State of New York totally changed, and honest labor is, now duly protected there. When the Commissioners of the Penitentiary were receiving proposals for the employment of Convict Labor, the present cabinet contractors proposed to employ the convicts in manufacturing machinery, such as is used for the manufactory of cotton, wool, &c., of which there are none established in Canada, and which when brought into successful operation, would effectually remove all the difficulties in the way of Canada becoming a prosperous manufacturing country, in those leading articles for home consumption, for which we are now almost wholly dependant on foreign countries. This proposition was made to the Commissioners, with an offer of paying the same rate of wages as they are now paying, under the cabinet contract, and on their own responsibility: they knowing full well that such a principle brought into operation would advance the interests of the country, and that without a reckless sacrifice of individual enterprise and interests. This proposition was favorably received by the Commissioners, but before a contract by them could be entered into, they must refer the matter to Mr. Hincks, whose *willing tools they were*,—but when the matter was referred to Mr. Hincks, he gave his decided veto against such a policy, stating in positive terms, that no business could be entered upon in the Penitentiary, that was not already successfully being carried on in the country. What his reasons may have been for adopting such a course it is not now our business to consider, but this we do know, that it was a point upon which the prosperity and improvement of Canada much depended. A course of policy, which if adopted, would have scattered those

clouds which now obscure her political horizon—instead of that gloom so sensibly felt upon the City of Kingston by the present policy, instead of that depopulation so visible in the city.

The decrease during the past year in the population of the city has been some two thousand—perhaps more. Where are they gone?—to a land where honest labor is protected. In the course of the first thirty days after the opening of Navigation last year, there left the good City of Kingston, upwards of 100 families, mechanics from that vicinity seeking a country where honest labor would be protected. The only reply to the respectful petitions, the urgent remonstrances of almost the unanimous population of the City of Kingston, against the manner of the employment of Convict Labor, was by *His Excellency the Governor General*:—“*that it was a grave subject.*” This is the policy of our present administration—policy hostile to domestic industry—hostile to honest labor, hostile to the manufacturing interest: upon that erroneous principle of forcing manufacturers to agricultural pursuits. Perhaps it might be supposed by our Ministry that the protection of honest and domestic labor would operate to injure the Reciprocity Bill; a measure viewed by sound politicians as a very doubtful one: a measure totally reverse to every principle of the American policy; a measure for which Mr. Hincks has spent the past winter on his knees at Washington—without success.

The increasing prosperity of the country, which would be the natural consequence of the protection of labor, and the increase of population would increase the demand for various foreign productions. And instead of diminishing, would increase the revenue, although it might not be exactly from the same articles, yet that such a policy would ultimately tend to such an increase, all experience proves.

The policy of Canada is a great political tread mill, up which, genius, and ingenuity, talent and science, enterprise and industry are obliged to climb in handcuffs and shackles.

Gentlemen,—It is such men as I now have the honor of addressing: whose information and influence, can in a great measure sway public opinion, and thereby controul those measures on which the present and future prosperity of Canada so much depends. And I trust the time is not far distant when such a policy may be adopted, as shall in its effects make Canada what nature, and the God of nature has destined her to be—a prosperous, flourishing and happy country.

